

Message Text

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21

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5768

UNCLAS BELGRADE 1338

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC YO

SUBJ: GRAND VELLEY STATE COLLEGES/UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO EXCHANGE

REF: STATE 44173

1. POST DOES NOT BELIEVE EXCHANGE, AT LEAST AS PRESENTLY DEVELOPING, WARRANTS STATE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS THIS YEAR. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, EXCHANGE WILL CONSIST MAINLY OF SUMMER PROGRAM FOR US STUDENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA, DITTO FOR SARAJEVO STUDENTS IN US. WILL BE PRIMARILY ON UNDER-GRADUATE LEVEL. POST IS WILLING PROVIDE FACILITATIVE SERVICES AND, IF PROJECT DEVELOPS THAT FAR, SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENT EXCHANGE THROUGH AYEC TRAVEL GRANTS. WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE LIMITED NATURE OF OUR SUPPORT CLEAR TO LUBBERS AND PETROVICH IN CONVERSATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

2. DOES NOT APPEAR THAT EITHER SIE IN THIS EXCHANGE VERY WELL PREPARED FINANCIALLY TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAM TO WHICH THEY HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES. FOR EXAMPLE, UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO HAS JUST APPROACHED AYEC WITH REQUEST FOR TRAVEL GRANTS FOR DELEGATION OF SARAJEVO U OFFICIALS GOING TO GVSC IN APRIL. (COMMISSION OF COURSE RESPONDED THAT BFS REGULATIONS PRECLUDED SUPPORT FOR SUCH SHORT-TERM VISITS). ALSO, SARAJEVO APPARENTLY DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS TO SEND JOURNALISM STUDENTS TO US AS PART OF AGREED ON EXCHANGE (SEE BELGRADE 816 AND PREVIOUS ABOUT SARAJEVO TV CO-OP). POST APPREHENSIVE THAT GVSC SIMILARLY UNPREPARED TO FUND ITS SIDE OF BARGAIN AND THAT IT EXPECTS DEPARTMENT TO BAIL IT OUT, LEAVING USG WITH ALTERNATIVE OF SPENDING MONEY ON LOW PRIORITY PROJECT OR APPEARING TO BE MAJOR CAUSE OF DEMISE

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OF PROJECT BY REFUSING TO FUND IT. OF THESE TWO ROLES, POST

STRONGLY PREFERS LATTER. SWEITZER

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